

Message

From: Darren Vogt
[Dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org]
Sent: 11/23/2021 4:11:03 PM
To: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA)
[miranda.nichols@state.mn.us]
CC: Waqui, Helen (MPCA)
[helen.waqui@state.mn.us];
Kessler, Katrina (MPCA)
[katrina.kessler@state.mn.us];
Harrington, Bradley (DNR)
[Bradley.Harrington@state.mn.us];
Harmon.Darrel@epa.gov
Subject: Birch Lake sulfate and wild rice
Attachments: Birch Lake - sulfate sampling
results 7-2021.jpg
Flag: Follow up

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Miranda,

We have commented and discussed numerous times about the need to include Birch Lake on the impaired waters list (2020 and 2022) for sulfate and wild rice. Wild rice is present in many areas of the lake, and specific bays with wild rice and elevated sulfate include Dunka Bay and Bob Bay. I believe that water quality data is available from a variety of sources including MPCA, USFS/USGS, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, and the 1854 Treaty Authority. I attached a figure showing our sampling results and can share more details if necessary. It appears that the rationale for not including Dunka Bay and Bob Bay is that sulfate concentration has been calculated for the lake as a whole and that these bays have not been considered separate locations. This loophole must be fixed, and if it takes a unique water identification number for the bays, then MPCA must work with MNDNR to immediately resolve this issue for listing on the impaired waters list. It is not appropriate to avoid including Birch Lake locations, they qualify as much as others already proposed to be identified on the impaired waters list. Thank you.

Darren Vogt
Resource Management Division Director
1854 Treaty Authority
4428 Haines Road
Duluth, MN 55811
218-722-8907 (phone)
218-722-7003 (fax)
dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org
www.1854treatyauthority.org